Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting ~~the presence of~~ melanoma cells in a human host, comprising the steps of:

combining a sample from said human host with a monoclonal antibody which binds specifically to an antigen, wherein

(a) said antigen is specifically bound by the antibody produced by the hybridoma deposited under ATCC Accession No. HB-12588,

(b) said antigen is present on the membrane and in the cytoplasm of human melanoma cells,

(c) said antigen is not present in normal non-activated human melanocytic cells and non-melanocytic human tumor cells in an amount that is detectable by the antibody produced by the hybridoma deposited under ATCC Accession No. HG-12588, and

(d) said monoclonal antibody competitively inhibits specific binding of the antibody produced by the hybridoma deposited under ATCC Accession No. HB-12588 to the antigen; and

detecting ~~formation of~~ said melanoma cells if immune complexes are present ~~as indicative of the presence of melanoma cells~~, wherein said sample is a bodily fluid.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said bodily fluid is blood.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein said monoclonal antibody is a humanized monoclonal antibody.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting ~~the presence of~~ melanoma cells in a human host, comprising the steps of:

combining a sample from said human host with a monoclonal antibody which binds specifically to an antigen, wherein

(a) said antigen is specifically bound by the antibody produced by the hybridoma deposited under ATCC Accession No. HB-12588,

(b) said antigen is present on the membrane and in the cytoplasm of human melanoma cells,

(c) said antigen is not present in normal non-activated human melanocytic cells and non-melanocytic human tumor cells in an amount that is detectable by the antibody produced by the hybridoma deposited under ATCC Accession No. HG-12588, and

(d) said monoclonal antibody competitively inhibits specific binding of the antibody produced by the hybridoma deposited under ATCC Accession No. HB-12588 to the antigen; and

detecting ~~formation of~~ said melanoma cells if immune complexes are present ~~as indicative of the presence of melanoma cells~~, wherein said antibodies are monoclonal antibodies, wherein said monoclonal antibodies or secondary antibodies to said monoclonal antibodies are conjugated to a label that provides a detectable signal, wherein said label is a radionuclide, a fluorescer, a radioopaque dye, or an enzyme, wherein said radionuclide is technetium 99, and wherein said sample is a bodily fluid.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for detecting the presence of melanoma in a human host, comprising the steps of:

combining a sample from said human host with a monoclonal antibody which binds specifically to an antigen, wherein

(a) said antigen is specifically bound by the antibody produced by the hybridoma deposited under ATCC Accession No. HB-12588,

(b) said antigen is present on the membrane and in the cytoplasm of human melanoma cells,

(c) said antigen is not present in normal non-activated human melanocytic cells and non-melanocytic human tumor cells in an amount that is detectable by the antibody produced by the hybridoma deposited under ATCC Accession No. HG-12588, and

(d) said monoclonal antibody competitively inhibits specific binding of the antibody produced by the hybridoma deposited under ATCC Accession No. HB-12588 to the antigen; and

detecting formation of immune complexes as indicative of the presence of melanoma cells, wherein said antibodies are monoclonal antibodies, wherein said monoclonal antibodies or secondary antibodies to said monoclonal antibodies are conjugated to a label that provides a detectable signal, wherein said label is a radionuclide, a fluorescer, a radioopaque dye, or an enzyme, wherein said radionuclide is technetium 99, wherein said sample is a bodily fluid, and wherein said bodily fluid is blood.